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SOICC NEWS
VOLUME 9 NUMBER 1

MONTANA STATE OCCUPATIONAL INFORMATION COORDINATING COMMITTEE

P.O. Box 1728 Helena, MT 59624 (406) 444-2741

Excellent - One of the Best

It's over. Actually, they're over. The Spring 1991 Improved Career Decision Making workshops are over for another year. This year approximately 80 people attended one of the three workshops. There were school counselors, Job Service professionals, private rehabilitation counselors, and university students who learned how to find and use labor market information. They heard speakers from private industry, state agencies, and the Armed Forces. Most suitcases were at least 10 pounds heavier when they left due to the amount of publications and workshop materials received during the classes.

Not all of the workshop evaluations have been tallied. Those which have rated the workshops as good learning experiences, especially in revealing sources of career and labor market information. The speakers and presentations received high marks. Best of all, many participants took the time to offer suggestions for improving the workshop. These suggestions listed more participatory training, career information center plans, and "practical experience" testimony as ways to help round out the offerings of the workshop.

We, the SOICC staff, would like to take this time to say "thank you" to all who attended. Your participation, questions, and honest appraisals will contribute much to the continued success of these workshops.

If you didn't get a chance to attend the ICDM workshop this year, there's always next year. The SOICC plans to hold two workshops next year. They're tentatively scheduled for Great Falls and Billings. No dates are available but they should be in the March-to-May time frame.

IMPROVED CAREER DECISION MAKING WORKSHOPS

SUMMER 1991 ISSUE

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Are You Talking About Gender or Sex?

Gender equity is a term that describes an environment where people are allowed to make choices based on their own unique interests and abilities rather than requiring that they conform to expectations based on sex stereotypes.

Gender equity best describes an environment which is optimal for creativity in learning and working; sex equity is the original but outmoded term for it. "Sex" describes the physiological and biological differences in male and female of all species.

Gender is a human term. "Gender" describes the socialization into a role dictated by one's culture or society. Gender is based on social influences and has historical significance. It is especially relevant in defining work, as tasks are "men's work" or "women's work" depending on when and where one lives.

"Gender equity" describes our goal and activities better than "sex equity." Gender equity does not pretend there are no biological differences between men and women. Rather, gender equity recognizes that there are greater differences between individuals of the same sex than there are collectively between the sexes. Some men are large and strong and interested in engineering; so are some women. Some women are warm and nurturing and good at caring for dependents; so are some men.

Gender equity can be promoted by its advocates when we use the reality of our own lives to become gender equity role models. There are a variety of methods for doing this:

- Proudly discuss your career achievements with young people, with each other, and with other professionals in your field.
- If you are employed, discuss the importance of your job to your family and yourself.
- Discuss the importance of your personal choice in academic preparation and the economic benefit you have received from that preparation.
- Talk about choices you've made and the consequences they've had on your life. If sex stereotypes influenced your choices, acknowledge their effect.
- Arrange a discussion on the economic importance that each woman will make to our country. Gender equity is a patriotic concern.
- Create awareness by developing bulletin boards and submitting articles about gender equity to publications.
- Establish a current events discussion to analyze current items impacting on the lives of real people, both men and women. Compare and contrast the effects.
- Watch you language. Equitable language includes both sexes and does not exclude either sex.

Gender equity is an economic issue; it is a family issue; it is an education issue; it is a career issue; it is a judicial issue; it is an aging issue; it is an issue of patriotism. Gender equity is a step on the path to a better future for all of us.

This article is adapted from a paper prepared by Nancy Thorndal, who retired as North Dakota's Perkins gender equity coordinator last year, with gratitude for her good role modeling.

Source: Carol Farris, Partnership in Equity Newsletter, April 1991

Look Before You Buy

The Montana SOICC has advertised its career information videotapes (and their prices) in previous newsletters and during conferences and workshops. What many people may not realize is these videotapes can be previewed before purchase. The SOICC will loan the tapes to schools or agencies so they may better determine if the content of the tape is appropriate to their courses. The tapes are for loan only. Since we have only one of each tape, please do not keep the tapes any longer than necessary. We'd like all interested persons to have a chance to see these great tapes. The following is a list of available videotapes:

it's A New World ($20.00) Recommended for middle school/junior high school students. Shows the importance of studying math and science through interviews with professionals in high demand occupations. Comes with a cirriculum guide.

Kaleidoscope of Careers ($100.00) Recommended for junior or senior high school students. A five videotape set. Provides a quick glimpse of 200 occupations, depicting people in their places of employment. Comes with a cirriculum guide.

Picking Your Path ($49.99) Recommended for elementary school students. A talking robot uses graphics and rhymes to answer children's questions about the world of work. Comes with cirriculum guide.

Job Hunting and Interviewing Tapes: Recommended for high school students and adults. Show how to organize, look for job leads, practice interview questions, set goals, and evaluate job offers.

Job Hunt: Staying on Track ($48.00)

Job Interviews: Tipping the Odds ($48.00)

SAT Change

The College Board is making changes in the Scholastic Aptitude Test (SAT). The new form will be in use by 1994.

The test, named the SAT-2, will have about 20% open-ended questions (without multiple answer choices) in the mathematics section. The reading section will feature some longer reading passages and questions that measure comprehension of themes. The use of calculators will be allowed for various math units.

The Board is also creating a new essay and multiple choice writing test. It will be optional as part of its current achievement test series.

The familiar 200-800 scale for the verbal and mathematics sections will be retained.

Source: The Network, Spring 1991, South Carolina OIS

Gender Equity Conference

The Gender Equity Coordinator of the Office of the Commissioner of Higher Education is sponsoring a Statewide Conference on Gender Equity in Work and Personal Relations.

This two day conference will be held June 18-19, 1991, at the Heritage Inn in Great Falls, MT.

There is a registration fee of $40 before June 1, 1991, and $50 after June 1, 1991. Registration includes 2 lunches, banquet and materials. Workshop space is limited and preregistration is required.

If you are interested in attending, please call Carol Farris at (406) 444-6570, or write to her at the Office of the Commissioner of Higher Education, 33 South Last Chance Gulch, Helena, MT 59620-2602.

Entry Level Can Be Rewarding

Figures from a Recruiting Trends Survey done by Michigan State University show graduates can expect a wide range of starting salaries, depending on their major. The lastest figures are as follows:

- Chemical Engineering $38,114
- Computer Science $33,238
- Nursing $29,449
- Marketing & Sales $24,273
- Personnel Administration $23,863
- Communications $22,882
- Education $21,662
- Advertising $21,483
- Human Ecology/Home Econ. $20,202
- Journalism $19,516

Source: Money Magazine, March 1991

Did You Know...

86% of young adults are high school graduates.

Youth, at 18.8% of the population in 1980, will represent 13.5% of the population in 1995.

In 1988 75% of all 16 to 19-year-olds were students. Of these 45% were also in the labor force.

22% of the nation's youth have completed 4 or more years of college.

The number of working women holding more than one job almost tripled between 1970 and 1989.

The average U.S. household income is $36,500.

Only 24% of jobs nationwide require college degrees.

Source: Money Magazine, March 1991
Source: IISOICC Newsletter, May 1991
Source: American Youth: A Statistical Snapshot, 1989, J. Wetzel

"I Knew That..."

Now that winter is over and our brains have had a chance to thaw, here are some teasers to get you running at top speed again.

1. There are sixty four checkers players at a tournament. A player is eliminated when he or she loses a game. How many games must the champion play?

2. The electricity goes out, and your bedroom is pitch dark. You need to find a matching pair of socks. In your drawer are 25 white socks and 25 red socks. How many socks must you take out of the drawer before you get a matching pair?

3. You have two U.S. coins totaling 55 cents and one is not a nickel. What are the two coins?

4. If three cats kill three rats in three minutes, how long will it take for 100 cats to kill 100 rats?

5. A farmer had 17 chickens. All but 9 died. How many does the farmer have left?

6. Is it legal in Canada for a man to marry his widow's sister?

7. Three men are walking in the rain with no umbrellas or hats. Two get their hair wet and one doesn't. Why?

8. A reverend announces that he will walk on the surface of the Missouri River without sinking into the water. How? +

9. Two sets of train tracks run parallel except where they go through a tunnel. The tunnel is only wide enough for one set of tracks. One afternoon a train enters the tunnel going in one direction and another train enters the tunnel in the opposite direction. Both trains are going fast but there is no collision. Why? +

10. How many pets do you have if all of them are dogs except two, all are cats except two, and all are parrots except two? +

11. Take 3 empty cups and ten pennies. Place the pennies in the cups so that there is an odd number of pennies in each cup. +

12. There are ten glasses in a row. The first five have soda in them and the next five are empty. Can you move just two glasses to make a row in which glasses with soda and empty glasses alternate? +

Preliminary Estimate of Poverty Thresholds in 1991

Size of Family Unit	Estimated Threshold
1 person (unrelated individual)	$6,652
Under 65 years	$6,800
65 years and over	$6,268
2 persons	$8,512
Household under 65 years	$8,794
Household 65 years and over	$7,906
3 persons	$10,419
4 persons	$13,360
5 persons	$15,800
6 persons	$17,835
7 persons	$20,197
8 persons	$22,480
9 persons	$26,857

The above table is marked "preliminary" but the Bureau of the Census states that these figures are now final.

Source: ADVOCNEWS release, US Department of Education

Answers

1. Six (64 divided by 2 = 32 divided by 2 = 16 divided by two = 8 divided by 2 = 4 divided by 2 = 2. Five games plus championship round equals 6 games)

2. Three

3. Fifty cent piece and a nickle (one is a nickel, but one is not a nickel)

4. Three minutes (more rats and more cats don't equal more time)

5. Nine

6. No; he's dead.

7. The third man is bald.

8. The reverend waits for the river to ice over.

9. Same afternoon, different times.

10. Three. All can also mean just one.

11. One solution: Cup 1 has 1 penny, Cup 2 has two pennies, Cup 3 has seven pennies. Cup 1 is placed inside Cup 2.

12. Pick up the second soda glass and pour its contents into the seventh glass. Pick up the fourth soda glass and pour its contents into the ninth glass. Every second glass will have soda in it.

Source: Maine OICC Newsletter, May 1991(Psychology for Kids, Jonni Kincher, Free Spirit Publishing, 1991)

Source: +Executive Female, page 54, January/February 1991 (Aha! Insight, Martin Gardner, W.H. Freeman & Company Inc.)

New Publication

The Department of Education, Office of Vocational and Adult Education, announced the availability of their March 1991 publication entitled: "Combining School and Work: Options in High School and Two Year Colleges."

The publication is available through the:

U.S. Government Printing Office

Superintendent of Documents

Washington, DC 20402

The cost is $3.00, and the ordering number is 065-000-00445-3.

Vocational Education Comparison

Youth in vocational cirriculum

U.S. 30%

England 18%

Japan 28%

Sweden 50%

W. Germany 70%

Source: Training Strategies. GAO Report 1990

650 copies of this newsletter were produced at an individual
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If you would like to contribute to this newsletter, write to the Montana SOICC at P.O. Box 1728, Helena, MT 59624. The Montana SOICC reserves the right to edit all information submitted.

H. Eric Johnson, Editor

Montana SOICC News

Robert N. Arnold

Program Officer

P.O. Box 1728
Helena, MT 59624

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